

Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 PM-09 RSR-01 /072 W
----- 088735

R 190940 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0547

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PHNOM PENH 2467

E. O. 11652: GDS N/ A

TAGS: PINS CB

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REF: STATE 049950

1. WE FORWARDED THE PRESIDENT' S MESSAGE (REFTEL) TO
CHAMCAR MON MARCH 18 AND RECEIVED THIS REPLY MARCH 19
(UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION).

2. BEGIN TEXT: PHNOM PENH MARCH 19. MR. PRESIDENT.
I WAS VERY COMFORTED BY YOUR MESSAGE OF MARCH 17,
1973, IN WHICH YOU STRONGLY CONDEMNED AND EXPRESSED
INDIGNATION OVER THE CRIMINAL ACT OF THE ENEMY OF THE
REPUBLIC WHO CAUSED SO MANY DEATHS AMONG THE FAMILIES
OF OUR COURAGEOUS SOLDIERS AND AMONG OUR POPULATION IN
GENERAL.

3. THIS CRIMINAL ACT, YOUR EXCELLENCY CAN BE SURE,
WAS CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH A CAREFULLY ELABORATED
SCHEME. ONE HAS ONLY TO RECALL THE ATTACKS OF WHICH
OUR KHMER STUDENTS RESIDENT AT THE CAMBODIAN PAVILION
IN PARIS WERE RECENTLY THE VICTIMS, AS WELL AS THE
SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATION OF THE STRIKE IN PHNOM PENH WHICH
REACHED A CRESCENDO FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE IN PARIS.
ON MARCH 16 TWO PRESIDENTS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN
PHNOM PENH WERE STRUCK ON THE HEAD WITH HATCHETS AS THEY
LEFT MEETINGS BECAUSE THEY WERE UNWILLING TO TAKE PART
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IN DEMONSTRATIONS; THERE WERE TWO OTHERS WOUNDED AT THE MEETING ON MARCH 17 WHICH THE AUTHORITIES ASCRIBE TO STRIKE AGITATORS WHILE THE POPULATION WAS EVERYWHERE ARRANGING CELEBRATIONS TO COMMEMORATE MARCH 18; TEAR GAS GRENADES WERE TOSSED IN THE SAME MEETING DURING THE GENERAL UPROAR; AND FINALLY THE SON- IN- LAW OF SIHANOUK DROPPED BOMBS ON THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.

4. THE SOLE OBJECT OF OUR ENEMIES, IN KEEPING WITH THE NUMEROUS MILITARY ACTIONS OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG, IS TO TAKE REVENGE AGAINST OUR REPUBLIC WHICH WAS CREATED BY POPULAR REFERENDUM.

5. OUR COUNTRYMEN HAVE EMERGED FROM THESE TRYING EXPERIENCES WHICH THE ENEMY HAS VAINLY IMPOSED ON THEM YET MORE STRENGTHENED AND UNITED TO PURSUE OUR COMMON OBJECTIVE OF THE DEFENSE OF OUR REPUBLIC AND OF PEACE IN THIS REGION. WE THANK YOUR EXCELLENCY FOR THE AFFECTIONATE AND FIRM SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHICH YOU EXPRESSED ON THIS OCCASION.

6. IN MENTIONING ONCE AGAIN OUR GRATITUDE TO YOUR EXCELLENCY, I ASK YOU TO ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, THE ASSURANCES OF MY VERY HIGH AND AFFECTIONATE CONSIDERATION. SIGNED LON NOL, MARSHAL, PRESIDENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC. SWANK

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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